

2023 Conference Committee Annual Report  
Kirsten Henagin and Will Martin, Committee Co-Chairs  
Friday, October 6, 2023

2023 Conference Committee included:

- Will Martin
- Kirsten Henagin
- Tammy Kruger
- Mary Soucie
- Randi Monley
- Karlene Clark
- Danielle Masursky
- Jenn Hess
- Sarah Davis
- Claire Kuhlman
- Lisa Eggebraaten
- Kerriane Boetcher

The 2023 NDLA Conference dates were October 11th through 13th at the Hilton Garden Inn in Fargo, ND.

The first Conference Committee meeting took place in December 2022 and the group met monthly through April. Planning picked back-up in mid-July meeting monthly and sometimes twice a month leading up to the event in October.

The keynote speaker selected was Deborah Caldwell-Stone, the Director of ALA's Office of Intellectual Freedom. The Flickertale speaker selected was Andrea Wang.

Vendor registration opened in March/April. The Conference Budget was finalized in April. In hindsight, the budget approval by the NDLA Executive Board should have taken place prior to vendor registration launching. 19 vendors completed the vendor registration. Vendor registration was shut down quickly due to the event space filling rapidly. Two additional vendors inquired about attending after the registration closed, and the committee was able to fit them into the venue.

Conference proposals opened in July and closed August 31. The timeline for conference proposal submission, review and acceptance created a challenge with the opening and closing of the conference registration for early bird and regular pricing. We received more session proposals than available slots in the conference schedule. The conference space did not provide a great place to allow a poster session, but in future years this will be considered.

While no theme was outright selected for the 2023 NDLA Conference, an emerging theme presented itself through the program proposals surrounding civic engagement, intellectual freedom, the legislative process, and diversity, equity, and inclusion.

We had great conference registration numbers with over 150 attendees for the entire conference with at least 79 registrations for the pre-conference regarding policies with the State Library. The great number of attendees proved to be a challenge for the event space and several iterations to rework the ballroom to allow for all of the attendees to participate.

Additionally, we have several volunteers who make the annual conference a wonderful experience. Thank you to those who help at the registration table, facilitators of the silent auction, and the extra hands that make our concurrent sessions seamless. We could not hold our conference without you!